

ometry, and the more elementary portions of Applied Mathematics, the latter is occupied with questions in the higher branches of the subject. Thus all interested in mathematics will have something to interest them. Both departments receive contributions from the best men in the United States. The work is entirely devoted to problems. One of its striking features is its truly admirable typographical execution, each page is a pleasure to look at—a fact which becomes perfectly astounding when, on one of the last pages, we find the following note: "This No. of the *Visitor* has been delayed some months in consequence of the sickness of the editor, who has done all the type-setting with his own hands. He is not a practical printer, and never had set up a stickful of type till last May or June." We strongly commend the *Visitor* to our Canadian mathematicians. It deserves, and we doubt not will obtain, a large circulation. Subscription, \$1 00 a year in advance—to be sent to Artemus Martin, Look Box 11, Erie, Pa.

VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE. The time for gardening is at hand, and the desire for beautiful flower gardens is largely on the increase. Mr. James Vick, of Rochester, N. Y., has done more than any other man to create this improved taste and supply the means of gratifying it. His annual Floral Guide contains hundreds of illustrations and full directions for the growth and culture of flowers. Those who wish reliable seeds should not fail to order from Vick.

THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER, VOL. VI. Bound Copy. William Collins & Sons, London, Edinburgh and Glasgow. This volume, 1879, makes an interesting and instructive book. It does not discuss professional subjects, but is a compendium of the latest and most entertaining information and anecdote in the fields of travel, adventure, history, science, and natural history. Teachers who wish to give their pupils attractive information will find a mine in this volume.

A MANUAL OF GOVERNMENT IN CANADA. J. C. Stewart & Co., Toronto. This valuable book is written by D. A. O'Sullivan, Barrister. It contains an historical sketch of the constitution of Canada, the Federal system, the Constitution of the Dominion and its institutions, the Provincial Constitutions and their institutions, the people and their rights, the judiciary, law and the courts, &c. It is, in fact, a compendium of the foundations on which the liberty of a Canadian is based, and, either in its present or a smaller form, should find its way to our High Schools as a text-book.

THE BOYS' WORLD for February, 1880, published by James W. Allingham, London, Eng., contains Chaps IV to XI of "Alfred of England, by Bronchy Beaumont, and the concluding chapters of "Arwick," by the same author "Born to Victory," "Timothy Simple," and "Pina, a Dick of Dahomey," the other serials, are each continued through a number of chapters. Three short stories, "Chased by Wolves," "Homeward Bound," and the "True Story of Mazepa," together with "Our Comic Kaleidoscope," "Merry Moments," "Half Holidays, how to spend them," and an interesting paper on "Chemistry, its Marvels and Mysteries," and the usual "Notices to Correspondents," complete the contents, forming a full and readable number of the "Paper."

The same publishers send us No. 14 of the "BOYS' WORLD POCKET LIBRARY," entitled "Horatius, or the Dauntless Three, a complete thirty-two page story for one penny, also THE LADIES' WORLD, for February, which offers the following programme to its fair readers. Chaps. XVI. to XXIII. of "A True British Girl, by Mrs. H. Lewis," "Daisy's Faith," "Only a Young Man's Fancy," "Lost, but still Loved, and All for Love," four stories completed in the No., "Illustrious Women of the World," "Lessons of Mammas-in-law," "Things worth knowing," "The Amateur Dressmaker," "Varieties," and "Notices to Correspondents."

HARPER'S MAGAZINE opens with a carefully prepared paper on "The New School of Italian Painting and Sculpture," by J. J. Jarvis, wherein are to be found some severe criticisms on the low standard of modern art displayed in either of these branches of art. Lieut. Semly, U. S. A., furnishes an interesting account of "Life among the Arrapahoes," followed by J. Brander Matthews on "Obstinacy," a story by C. Moscholes; then Wm. Hamilton Gibson's "Winter Idyl," beautifully illustrated by himself; "Dakota Wheat Fields," C. C. Coffin; "An Irish Wake," J. S. Cloud, and "Vacation Aspects of Colorado," A. A. Hayes, jr., bring us to Chaps. XXIII. to XXV. of "White Wings," by Wm. Black; "Miss Benlan's Bonnet," by Rosa Terry Cooke; "Transportation by Railway and Ship canals," E. H. Dorby; "Karin," a Swedish Romance by Gustafson, Chapters XXVIII. to XXXI. of "Mary Annerly," and a comprehensive essay on the "Preservation of Hearing," by Dr. Sexton, follow each other in quick succession. The Editor a Chat from his "Easy Chair," with the "Literary and Historical Record," and the Drawer, with five short poems, among which we notice "The Sifting of Peter," by H. W. Longfellow, form the contents for March.

We have received from Strachan & Company the **CONTEMPORARY REVIEW**, which contains the following articles.—1. Mysteries of Administration in

Turkey. 2. A Sequel to "The Pedigree of Man," by Dr. Radcliffe. 3. The Duration of Parliaments, by Walter R. Cassels. 4. The Pillar of Praise, by Emily Pfaffer. 5. Bureaucracy and its Operation in Germany and Austria-Hungary, by Prof. Von Schulte. 6. The Vernacular Press in India, by Roper Lethbridge. 7. Hellenic and Christian Views of Beauty, by the Rev. B. St. John Tyrwhitt. 8. Ministerial Misstatements on the Afghan Question, by the Duke of Argyll. 9. Contemporary Books. I. Ecclesiastical History, &c., under the direction of Archdeacon Cheetham. II. Biblical Literature, &c., under the direction of the Rev. and Hon. W. N. Fremantle. III. Modern History, under the direction of Prof. R. Gardiner.

We acknowledge the receipt of the **NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW** from D. Appleton & Co. It contains the following.—1. McClellan's Last Service to the Republic, part 1, by G. T. Curtis. 2. Relations of Canada with the United States, by Sir F. Hincks. 3. The Failure of the Southern Pulpit, by Rev. David Swigg. 4. Gen. Grant and a Third Term, by Geo. S. Boutwell. 5. The Irish Land Question, by Chas. Ste. art Parnell. 7. Recent Books on Trade and Finance, by Edward Cary. I. Reciprocity, Bi-metallicism, and Land-Tenure Reform. II. Free Trade and English commerce. III. The Financial History of the United States from 1774 to 1789.

We have received from the Leonard Scott Publishing Company **BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH MAGAZINE**, in which are the following articles:—1. Our American Senator on Ireland. 2. Bush Life in Queensland, Part IV. 3. The North-East Passage: Narrative of Lieutenant Palander, Swedish Royal Navy, Commander of the Exploring Vessel (with maps). 4. Reata; or What's in a Name. Part XII. 5. Conviviality. 6. The Afghan War. Passages from the Note-Book of a Staff-officer. 7. Metternich. 8. The Opening of Parliament.

The April **ATLANTIC MONTHLY** maintains the reputation of the magazine for variety and interest. It opens with the first instalment of a new serial story, "The Stillwater Tragedy," by Thomas Bailey Aldrich, which shows that the right hand of its author has not forgot its cunning. "The Undiscovered Country" is continued; and Rosa Terry Cooke furnishes "Clary's Trial," by Whittier, Crasset, Butterworth, Miss Sarah O. Jewett, and two anonymous writers. Harriet Preston writes about Madame Palandow, under the caption of "A Woman of Genius," Mr. Lothrop about "Coleridge as Poet and Man," Mr. Henry C. Angell on the "Records of W. M. Hunt," the painter, and Richard Grant White on "A Canterbury Pilgrimage." There are, also, an additional chapter of "Reminiscences of Washington," which is very readable, and an article on "Republican Candidates for the Presidency," which no one who wishes to understand the present state of politics in the United States should pass over. Reviews of three German novels and Jeffries' "Color-Blindness, together with "The Contributors Club," conclude a good number.

The **GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE** is, if we mistake not, the oldest now in existence. At any rate, the March number is the seventeen hundred and ninety first, and is to constitute a part of the two hundred and forty-sixth volume. It is remarkable that not only has it not fallen behind the age, but it has a freshness and life which we look for in vain in many of its young competitors. The contents are. An instalment of "Queen Copetua," a very good serial story, by R. E. Francillon, "Health Through Education," an article of great interest to teachers, by Dr. Richardson, the eminent testotaller and author of "Hygiene," "Tails, Limbs and Lungs," by Andrew Wilson, an interesting zoological contribution, illustrated with wood-cuts; "Norman and Saxon Blood Royal," by Thomas Foster, a valuable historical paper, "Voices that are Still," by the member for the Chiltern Hundreds, an entertaining account of the peculiarities of some recently deceased members of the English House of Commons, "The Edinburgh Review and its Contributors," by C. Peabody, based on the recently published correspondence of Mr. Macvey Napier, its second editor; "An Anglo-Indian Poet," by James Payn, which is an amusing review of a volume of English poems lately given to the world by a Parsee; "Love's Dawn and Death," a poem by G. V. K.; and "Table Talk," by the Editor.

ORIGIN OF THE DESERT OF SAHARA.

A M. Largeau in 1874 visited the valley of the Igharghar, with the intention of branching off to Rhadames to study the commerce of that oasis and test the practicability of diverting to Algeria the caravans that come there by the central route from Soudan. He questioned the *chambas* on the causes of the drying of the great Saharan streams, and found that all agreed in saying that these dead rivers once ran full through a country more fertile than the Tell (the region north of the Atlas Mountain's crest), but could only explain it by legends more interesting than satisfactory.

M. Largeau gives the following explanation of the change: "It is known that pastoral people have always been great destroyers of forests, for they need large spaces of ground to feed the flocks that form their wealth, and to promote security against the wild beasts that lurk in forests. Even now the Algerian Arabs are seen firing the woods to enlarge the narrow limits imposed upon them by colonization. So, although the great Saharan streams have not been explored to their sources, yet it is known that they commence on the bare plateaux that are but the skeletons of heights once wooded and fertile. All accounts of the inhabitants of these regions agree on that point. Consequent upon the destruction of the forests, the periodical rains were replaced by rare and short though violent storms, the waters from which, instead of soaking in as in past ages, slip by on the rocky masses, carrying away the rich surface mold, and bring about the drying of the springs, and, as a direct consequence, of the rivers."—Lieutenant Seaton Schroeder, in *Popular Science Monthly* for February.